SECTION I—SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the specification as shown below:

1.   Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment, a solid-state piezoelectric vacuum pump 124 is mounted on wedge-cut tube 52, as shown in FIGURE 2A. One vacuum pump suitable for this purpose is describe in co-pending application serial number [[_____]] 09/805,654 entitled "PIEZOELECTRIC VACUUM PUMP AND METHOD", filed [[_____]] March 13, 2001, and now U.S. Patent No. 6,450,773, the specification and drawings of which are herein incorporated by reference. Vacuum pump 124 uses a plurality of piezoelectric bi-morph elements to generate a "wave-like" action that results in a very-low flow rate. Since the pumping action is produced by applying voltages across the piezoelectric bi-morph elements, there is substantially no vibration caused by the pump, and virtually no parts to wear out. As a result, vacuum pump 124 can be operated on a continual basis, and is highly reliable.

2.   Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIGURE 2B, once a desired optical alignment is established, telescope 120 may be replaced with a magnetic fluid based fiber optic positioner 126.   Details of the construction and operation of magnetic fluid based fiber optic positioner 126 are contained in co-pending application serial number [[_____]] 09/805,763, entitled "MAGNETIC FLUID-BASED POSITIONING APPARATUS AND METHOD," filed on [[_____]] March 13, 2001, and now U.S. Patent No. 6,553,161, the specification and drawing figures of which are incorporated herein by reference. As described in the co-pending application, magnetic fluid based fiber optic positioner 126 provides a mechanism for controlling the position of an end portion of a fiber optic cable that is used to emit and/or receive light signals. The positioner also provides a means for controlling the direction of light beams emitted from the end of the fiber optic cable.

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